

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 each of a plurality of directory servers non-exclusively engaging a first
3 plurality of servers to serve as master servers for hosting one or more application
4 services, and a second plurality of servers to serve as slave servers for facilitating
5 clients accesses to the hosted one or more application services;
6 the directory servers receiving requests from clients to access a selected one
7 or selected ones of said one or more application services; and
8 the directory servers selecting and assigning selected ones of their non-
9 exclusively engaged master servers to host said accessed application service or
10 services as well as selecting and assigning selected ones of their engaged slave
11 servers to facilitate said clients to access said hosted application service or services.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the master and slave
2 servers are engaged to host application service or services, and facilitate clients
3 accesses for multiple ones of said directory servers, and the directory servers
4 perform said selections and assignments of master and slave servers to host
5 application service or services and facilitate accesses to the hosted application
6 service or services based on a plurality of operational metrics that directly or
7 indirectly convey the master and slave servers ability to further host additional
8 instantiation of an application service or additional application service, and facilitate
9 clients accesses, in view of the hosting and access facilitating respectively already
10 undertaken by the non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said method further comprises the directory servers periodically polling their non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers for information related to said operational metrics the directory servers employed to select and assign master and slave servers to host one or more application services and facilitate accesses to the one or more hosted application services.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least said clients are coupled to said directory and slave servers through a public network, and said hosted one or more application services include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-party talk radio shows, with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers of said hosted multi-party talk radio shows.

5. In a directory server, a method comprising:
contacting a first plurality of other servers to non-exclusively engage said first plurality of other servers to serve as master servers for hosting one or more application services;
contacting a second plurality of other servers to non-exclusively engage said second plurality of other servers to serve as slave servers for facilitating clients accesses to one or more hosted application services;
receiving requests from clients to access a selected one or selected ones of said one or more hosted application services; and
selecting and assigning selected ones of said non-exclusively engaged master servers to host said one or more accessed application services as well as selecting and assigning selected ones of said non-exclusively engaged slave

13 servers to facilitate said clients to access said one or more hosted application
14 services.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said selections and assignments of non-
2 exclusively engaged master and slave servers to host one or more application
3 services and facilitate accesses to the one or more hosted application services are
4 performed in accordance with a plurality of operational metrics that directly or
5 indirectly convey the master and slave servers ability to further host an additional
6 instantiation of an application service or additional application services, and facilitate
7 client accesses, in view of the hosting and access facilitating respectively already
8 undertaken by the non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said method further comprises periodically
2 polling said non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers for information
3 related to said operational metrics employed to select and assign master and slave
4 servers to host one or more application services and facilitate accesses to the one
5 or more hosted application services.

1 8. The method of claim 5, wherein at least said clients are coupled to said
2 directory and slave servers through a public network, and said one or more hosted
3 application services include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-
4 party talk radio shows, with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers of
5 said hosted multi-party talk radio shows.

1 9. An apparatus comprising:

2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to operate the apparatus to
4 contact a first plurality of other apparatuses to non-exclusively engage
5 said first plurality of other apparatuses to serve as master servers for
6 hosting one or more application services,
7 contact a second plurality of other apparatuses to non-exclusively engage
8 said second plurality of other apparatuses to serve as slave servers for
9 facilitating clients accesses to one or more hosted application services,
10 receive requests from clients to access selected ones of said one or more
11 hosted application services; and
12 select and assign selected ones of said non-exclusively engaged master
13 servers to host said accessed application service or services as well
14 as select and assign selected ones of said non-exclusively engaged
15 slave servers to facilitate said clients to access said one or more
16 hosted application services; and
17 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
18 programming instructions.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to perform said selections and assignments of
3 non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers to host one or more application
4 services and facilitate accesses to the hosted application service or services in
5 accordance with a plurality of operational metrics that directly or indirectly convey
6 the master and slave servers ability to further host additional instantiations of an
7 application service or additional application services, and facilitate clients accesses,

8 in view of the hosting and access facilitating respectively already undertaken by the
9 non-exclusively engaged master and slave servers.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to periodically poll said non-exclusively engaged
3 master and slave servers for information related to said operational metrics
4 employed to select and assign master and slave servers to host one or more
5 application services and facilitate accesses to the one or more hosted application
6 services.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least said clients are coupled to said
2 apparatus and said slave servers through a public network, and said one or more
3 hosted application services include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted
4 multi-party talk radio shows, with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers
5 of said hosted multi-party talk radio shows.

1 13. In a master server, a method comprising:
2 consenting to non-exclusive engagements to serve as a master server for
3 hosting one or more application services for a plurality of directory servers;
4 receiving instructions from the plurality of directory servers to host a selected
5 one or selected ones of said one or more hosted application services; and
6 hosting said selected one or ones of said one or more hosted application
7 services accordingly.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said method further comprises responding
2 to periodically polling by said directory servers for information related to operational

3 metrics employed by said directory servers to select and assign master servers to
4 host one or more application services.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein said method further comprises interacting
2 with a plurality of slave servers to facilitate access by clients to said one or more
3 hosted application services, said clients accessing said one or more hosted
4 application services through said slave servers.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein said clients are coupled to said directory
2 servers through a public network, and said one or more hosted application services
3 include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-party talk radio shows,
4 with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers of said hosted multi-party
5 talk radio shows.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said hosting of said packet based talk radio
2 show and its said hosted multi-party talk radio shows comprises receiving audio
3 streams of a plurality of callers of a hosted multi-party talk radio show through one
4 or more slave servers through which said callers access said hosted multi-party talk
5 radio show, said callers being coupled to said one or more slave servers through
6 said public network.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein said hosting of said packet based talk radio
2 system and said hosted multi-party talk radio shows further comprises mixing
3 received audio streams to generate a mixed audio stream, and sending said mixed
4 audio stream to listeners of said multi-party talk radio show through one or more
5 slave servers through which said listeners access said hosted multi-party talk radio

6 show, said listeners being coupled to said one or more slave servers through said
7 public network.

1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said hosting of said packet based talk radio
2 system and said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio shows further comprises
3 sending a first audio stream received through a first slave server from a first caller to
4 a second caller through a second slave server, and sending a second audio stream
5 received through said second slave server from said second caller to said first caller
6 through said first slave server, said first and second callers being coupled to said
7 first and second slave servers through said public network.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said first and second slave servers are one
2 of the same slave server.

1 21. An apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to operate the apparatus to
4 consent to non-exclusive engagements to serve as a master server for
5 hosting one or more application services for a plurality of directory
6 servers coupled to said apparatus,
7 receive instructions from the plurality of directory servers to host a selected
8 one or selected ones of said one or more hosted application services,
9 and
10 host said selected one or ones of said one or more hosted application
11 services accordingly; and

12 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
13 programming instructions.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus respond to periodically polling by said directory
3 servers for information related to operational metrics employed by said directory
4 servers to select and assign master servers to host one or more application
5 services.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to interact with a plurality of slave servers
3 coupled to the apparatus to facilitate access by clients to said one or more hosted
4 application services, said clients accessing said one or more hosted application
5 services through said slave servers.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said clients are coupled to said directory
2 servers through a public network, and said hosted one or more application services
3 include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-party talk radio shows,
4 with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers of said hosted multi-party
5 talk radio shows.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to receive audio streams of a plurality of callers of a hosted multi-party
3 packet based talk radio show through one or more slave servers through which said
4 callers access said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, said callers
5 being coupled to said one or more slave servers through said public network.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to mix received audio streams to generate a
3 mixed audio stream, and to send said mixed audio stream to listeners of said multi-
4 party talk radio show through one or more slave servers through which said listeners
5 access said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, said listeners being
6 coupled to said slave servers through said public network.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to send a first audio stream received through a first slave server from a
3 first caller to a second caller through a second slave server, and to send a second
4 audio stream received through said second slave server from said second caller to
5 said first caller through said first slave server, said first and second callers are
6 coupled to said first and second slave servers through said public network.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said first and second slave servers are
2 one of the same slave server.

1 29. In a slave server, a method comprising:
2 consenting to non-exclusive engagements to serve as a slave server for
3 facilitating clients accesses to one or more hosted application services for a plurality
4 of directory servers;
5 receiving instructions from the plurality of directory servers to facilitate
6 accesses by clients to a selected one or selected ones of said one or more hosted
7 application services; and

8 facilitating accesses by clients to said selected one or ones of said one or
9 more hosted application services accordingly.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said method further comprises responding
2 to periodically polling by said directory servers for information related to operational
3 metrics employed by said directory servers to select and assign slave servers to
4 facilitate clients accesses to one or more hosted application services.

1 31. The method of claim 29, wherein said method further comprises interacting
2 with a plurality of master servers to facilitate accesses by clients to one or more
3 application services hosted by said master servers.

1 32. The method of claim 29, wherein said clients are coupled to said directory
2 and slave servers through a public network, and said one or more hosted
3 application services include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-
4 party talk radio shows, with said clients comprising hosts, listeners and callers of
5 said hosted multi-party talk radio shows.

1 33. The method of claim 32, wherein said facilitating of access to said hosted
2 multi-party packet based talk radio shows comprises receiving audio streams from a
3 plurality of facilitated callers of a hosted multi-party talk radio show, and forwarding
4 the received audio streams to a master server hosting said hosted multi-party talk
5 radio show.

1 34. The method of claim 32, wherein said facilitating of access to said hosted
2 multi-party packet based talk radio shows further comprises receiving a mixed audio

stream from a master server hosting said hosted multi-party talk radio show, and sending said mixed audio stream to a plurality of listeners facilitated by the slave server to access said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein said facilitating of access to said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio shows further comprises receiving a first and a second audio stream of a hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show from a master server hosting said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, provided to said master server on behalf of a first and a second client, and sending said first and second audio streams to said second and first clients respectively.

36. An apparatus comprising:
storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions designed to operate the apparatus to
consent to non-exclusive engagements to serve as a slave server for a plurality of directory servers for facilitating clients coupled to said apparatus to access one or more hosted application services,
receive instructions from the plurality of directory servers to facilitate accesses by clients to a selected one or selected ones of said one or more hosted application services, and
facilitate accesses by clients to said selected one or ones of said one or more hosted application services accordingly; and
at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to respond to periodic polling by said directory
3 servers for information related to operational metrics employed by said directory
4 servers to select and assign slave servers to facilitate clients accesses to one or
5 more hosted application services.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to interact with a plurality of master servers to
3 facilitate accesses by clients to one or more application services hosted by said
4 master servers.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said clients are coupled to said apparatus
2 and said directory servers through a public network, and said one or more hosted
3 application services include a packet based talk radio system and its hosted multi-
4 party packet based talk radio shows, with said clients comprising hosts, listeners
5 and callers of said hosted multi-party talk radio shows.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive audio streams from a plurality of
3 facilitated callers of a hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, and to
4 forward the received audio streams to a master server hosting said hosted multi-
5 party packet based talk radio show, said master server being coupled to said
6 apparatus.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive a mixed audio stream from a master

3 server hosting said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, and to send
4 said mixed audio stream to a plurality of listeners facilitated by the slave server to
5 access said hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said programming instructions are further
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive a first and a second audio stream of
3 said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show from a master server hosting
4 said hosted multi-party packet based talk radio show, provided to said master server
5 on behalf of a first and a second caller, and to send said first and second audio
6 streams to said second and first callers respectively.

1 43. In a client device, a method comprising:
2 requesting a directory server for access to a hosted application service;
3 receiving identification of a slave server from the directory server to access
4 said hosted application service through said identified slave server; and
5 accessing said hosted application service hosted through said identified slave
6 server accordingly.

1 44. The method of claim 43, wherein said client device is coupled to said
2 directory and slave servers through a public network, and said hosted application
3 service is a packet based talk radio system and a first of its hosted multi-party talk
4 radio shows, with said client being one of a host, a listener or a caller of said first
5 hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein said access of said first hosted multi-party
2 talk radio show comprises providing control information to a master server hosting

3 said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server, said client
4 device being a host of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 46. The method of claim 44, wherein said access of said first hosted multi-party
2 talk radio show comprises receiving audio streams of callers from a master server
3 hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server,
4 said client device being a host of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 47. The method of claim 44, wherein said access of said first hosted multi-party
2 talk radio show comprises receiving a mixed audio stream from a master server
3 hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server,
4 said mixed audio stream being generated from audio streams of callers of said first
5 hosted multi-party talk radio show received by said master server, and said client
6 device being a listener of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 48. The method of claim 44, wherein said access of said first hosted multi-party
2 talk radio show comprises receiving an audio stream from a master server hosting
3 said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server, said audio
4 stream being received from a caller of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show by
5 said master server, and said client device being a caller of said first hosted multi-
6 party talk radio show.

1 49. An apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to operate the apparatus to
4 request a directory server for access to a hosted application service,

5 receive identification of a slave server from the directory server to access
6 said hosted application service hosted through said identified slave
7 server, and
8 access said hosted application service through said identified slave server
9 accordingly; and
10 a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming
11 instructions.

1 50. The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said apparatus is coupled to said
2 directory and slave servers through a public network, and said hosted application
3 service is a packet based talk radio system and a first of its hosted multi-party talk
4 radio shows, with said client being one of a host, a listener or a caller of said first
5 hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to operate the apparatus to provide control information to a master server
3 hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server,
4 said apparatus being a host of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 52. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive audio streams of callers from a master
3 server hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave
4 server, said apparatus being a host of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 53. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive a mixed audio stream from a master

3 server hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave
4 server, said mixed audio stream being generated from audio streams of callers of
5 said first hosted multi-party talk radio show received by said master server, and said
6 apparatus being a listener of said first hosted multi-party talk radio show.

1 54. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said programming instructions are
2 designed to operate the apparatus to receive an audio stream from a master server
3 hosting said first multi-party talk radio show, through said identified slave server,
4 said audio stream being received from a caller of said first hosted multi-party talk
5 radio show by said master server, and said apparatus being a caller of said first
6 hosted multi-party talk radio show.

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